Setting up Steel Plants in South

3434. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had planned to set up two steel plants in the South;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) when the proposal was mooted and what is the present position with regard to the setting up of these plants;

(d) what is the total amount of aid received from the erstwhile Soviet Union for the projects as against the committed aid;

(e) what is the actual amount of aid spent so far stating the reasons for non-utilisation of the aid received; and

(f) what are the prospects of the aid for the plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) On April, 1970 Government announced its decision to set up three new steel plants, at Salem in Tamilnadu, Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Hospet in Karnataka.

The steel plants at Salem and Visakhapatnam have already been commissioned and are in production.

Due to resource constraints the scheme for setting up a steel plant at Hospet (since renamed as Vijayanagar Steel Plant) could not be taken up. It has now been decided in principle to transfer the land acquired for this project alongwith other assets to Government of Karnataka for setting up the project. The State Government has reportedly identified joint sector partners for setting up two one million tonne integrated steel plants at the given site.

(d) to (f) The Government of erstwhile USSR offered Credit of Rouble 390 million for the construction of steel plant at Visakhapatnam. Out of this, contracts were entered into for a total value of Roubles 280 millions for equipment supply, design and engineering and technical services. The actual utilisation of credit as on date is Roubles 259 million. The balance credit could not be utilised partly due to reduction in equipment edquirements following the decision to reduce the steel making capacity from 3.4 million tonnes to 3.00 million tonnes per annum and partly due to procurement of equipment and machinery from sources other than erstwhile USSR and discontinuance of credit from 1992. As the steel plant at Visakhapatnam has already been completed and commissioned no further assistance is required from the erstwhile USSR.

इस्पात उद्योग में कार्यरत लघु इकाइयां

3435. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव** : क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि लघु उद्योग को बढ़ावा देने हेतु इस्पात के मूल्य से नियंत्रण हटा दिया गया था और इस योजना के अन्तर्गत इस क्षेत्र को प्राथमिकता दिये जाने का प्रस्ताव था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो मूल्य पर नियंत्रण हटाने से पूर्व कुल कितने पंजीकृत लघु उद्योग थे और 30 जून, 1993 की स्थिति के अनुसार कुल कितने लघु उद्योग स्टील अथारिटी आफ इंडिया लि० में पंजीकृत हैं ; और

(ग) इस्पात उद्योग के अन्तर्गत कार्यरत लघु उद्योगों की संख्या कम होने के क्या कारण हैं ?

इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष मोहन देव) : (क) दिनांक 16-1-1992 से इस्पात के वितरण और मूल्य पर से नियंत्रण हटा लेने के बाद भी लघु उद्योग क्षेत्र प्राथमिकता वाला क्षेत्र